

THE CITIZEN

Vol. 38, No. 12

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart

June 25, 2009

Serving the Greater Stuttgart Military Community

Paratroopers remember D-Day with jump into France

**Photos and story by Master Sgt.
Donald Sparks**

*Special Operations Command,
Europe Public Affairs Office*

Paratroopers representing all services of the U.S. Special Operations Command Europe jumped into the same fields of Normandy, France, on June 7 as paratroopers did 65 years ago during the D-Day invasion by Allied expeditionary forces.

The massive air drop of more than 300 airborne paratroopers capped off a week of memorial events held at Sainte Mère Église, France, honoring the 65th anniversary of D-Day.

Airborne units from the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions liberated many French towns in some of the most epic battles of World War II. Some of the last surviving veterans from those units who took part in the invasion came across the Atlantic to once again walk the beaches and fields of Normandy.

Throughout the week-long commemoration, SOCEUR service mem-

See Paratroopers on page 4



"Iron Mike," the French memorial dedicated to the airborne troopers killed in the liberation of France, overlooks paratroopers participating in an airborne drop on June 7 as part of a week-long series of events commemorating the 65th anniversary of D-Day. More than 300 paratroopers from the United States, France and Germany participated in the drop outside of Sainte Mère Église, France.

EUCOM's change of command will impact Patch

By Larry Reilly

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Long before Army Gen. John Craddock hands over the U.S. European Command guidon to Navy Adm. James G. Stavridis, during the U.S. European Command's change of command ceremony at 10 a.m. June 30 on Husky Field, Patch Barracks, all the parking areas and surrounding facilities will be closed.

The parking spaces around the Patch Fitness Center complex and the Swabian Special Events Center will be closed starting the evening of June 28 until 3 p.m. June 30.

In addition, the parking lots adjacent to Husky Field

and parking spaces along California, Michigan, New Jersey and Pennsylvania Strasses will also be closed starting the evening of June 28 until 3 p.m. June 30. All remaining vehicles will be towed.

"The owners of the towed vehicles will have to pay a €138 towing charge prior to picking up their vehicles," said Art Richard, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart deputy director of Emergency Services.

On June 30, there will be parking spaces available along Florida Strasse, starting at 8 a.m.

There will be a bus service between Panzer Kaserne and Patch Barracks from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. The pick-up and drop-off points will be the bus stop next to the Welcome Center on Panzer and the bus stop near Building 2307 on Michigan Strasse on Patch.

On June 30, California, Michigan, Jersey and Pennsylvania Strasses, and all facilities on Finance Row, will be closed from 8 a.m. to noon and the Patch Fitness Center complex will be closed all day.

The Swabian Special Events Center and the La Rose Restaurant will be closed June 30 until 3 p.m.

During the ceremony, as well as the June 29 rehearsal, there will be a cannon salute. For those who park their vehicles nearby, it is advised that they crack their windows and turn their car alarms off.

In the event of rain, the change of command ceremony will be held inside the Patch Fitness Center.

For more information, call the Military Police at 430-5451/civ. 0711-680-5451.

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Thrills abound at amusement parks

From roller coasters and water flumes to cultural shows, food and flair, Germany's amusement parks offer something for the whole family.



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Local pools offer chance to cool off

Stuttgart residents don't have to look far for a place to dive into summer — the Sindelfingen Badezentrum is just minutes from Panzer Kaserne.



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Commander's Column

Independence Day weekend means using common sense, celebrating responsibly



Col. Pastore

By Col. Richard M.
Pastore
USAG Stuttgart
commander

July 4 marks the 233th anniversary of our nation's independence. It is a time for celebration, relaxation and a chance to get away from the daily routine.

Unfortunately, the holiday is also a time of increased preventable off-duty accidents. One hundred-ten Soldiers who celebrated our nation's independence last year cannot celebrate with us this year. They lost their lives in needless accidents. Eighty were off-duty accidents; two-thirds of these accidents involved privately owned vehicles.

We view ourselves as professionals, and professionals manage risks. Ensure you identify and assess all risks, then take the appropriate steps to eliminate or mitigate them.

For example, the combination of alcohol and

Adopting a careless attitude can be fatal.

driving is a well-documented, well-known and inexcusable risk. Do not take it.

We also need to be aware of the risks associated with recreational summer activities, particularly when they involve water sports, boats, and/or personal watercraft. These activities can also turn deadly when combined with alcohol.

Enjoy this holiday and the summer without unnecessary and unacceptable risks. Adopting a careless attitude can be fatal.

Celebrate the birth of our nation with pride, but also with responsibility. Use common sense and sound judgement to ensure this is a great Independence Day weekend. Don't drink and drive, and always supervise your children closely.

I wish you all a well-deserved holiday weekend. Make it a safe one.

THE CITIZEN

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U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Commander

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ON THE STREET

What are you doing for fun this summer?



Cpl. Shannon Leibach
(U.S. Marine Corps)

"I'm just going to go out and explore, wherever it takes me."



Scott Wilkening
(Contractor)

"We're getting a house [and] visiting IKEA. We're still getting settled."



Mandy Douglas
(Civilian)

"I have a trip to Greece and Crete. Other than that, working."



Sgt. 1st Class Collin Scott
(U.S. Army)

"Chances are I'll probably be in Africa, working."



Takaya Mcfarland
(Family member)

"I'm going to go to Disneyland ... to my mom's grandma's house and ... Legoland."



Sgt. 1st Class Steve Bose
(U.S. Army)

"My wife and I are planning on taking as many tours through the USO as possible."



Kristin Kleinsasser
(Army spouse)

"Find all the parks ... probably go to the pool ... anything we can do outside."



Petty Officer 1st Class Sean Stone
(U.S. Navy)

"We're going to do some traveling to France, Czech Republic and Poland."



Brittany Carlson

School's out for the summer!

Students at Böblingen Elementary/Middle School rush through the doors as the final bell rings on June 11, marking the end of school year 2008-'09.

554th Soldiers, families connect with virtual Family Readiness Group

Story and photo by Brittany Carlson
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Deployed Soldiers may be halfway around the world, but they are only a mouse-click away, thanks to the virtual Army Family Readiness Group.

The Army-wide Web site, www.armyfrg.org, allows any Army unit FRG to create its own Web pages where family members can find information on their deployed Soldiers' unit, and communicate through forums and photos.

Within U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart, family members of the recently deployed 554th Military Police Company use the site to connect with each other and with their Soldiers. The site has been activated for all 554th MP Company deployments since 2006.

"I try to check it once every couple of days," said Sylvia Allen, stand-in FRG leader for the 554th MP Company and care team leader. "I think it's a really awesome tool, and I really hope people take

advantage of it."

Since the company deployed May 31, the site has gained an equal or greater number of members than the number of Soldiers that deployed, said Lt. Daniel McCarey, rear detachment commander and site administrator.

"It's good that everyone's aboard," he said. "As soon as I find a snippet of information from down range, the first thing I do is post it online for everyone to see."

The company's FRG site includes a calendar of events, including upcoming FRG meetings; contact information for FRG leaders, and even pictures of the Soldiers during the two days they were at Ramstein Air Base before deploying to Afghanistan.

"The most important feature is the forum section," McCarey said. "Already, a father of one of the Soldiers posted a question on how his son's doing."

Family members can use the virtual FRG to send video e-mails to their deployed Soldier, use a telephone tree or send their own photos to the site administrator(s) to post online.

McCarey added that family members living off-post, as well as parents and spouses living in the United States during the deployment, cannot always come to the FRG meetings on the installation for information. "They're relying on the Web site to get updated frequently," he said.

The site is not only an official Army Web site, but a secure way to post sensitive information about the troops.

"It's going to be the main communication between the rear detachment and spouses," Allen said.

To access the site, family members must provide site administrators with information about themselves and their sponsor.



Lauren James, a 554th MP Company family member, navigates through the unit's virtual FRG.

News & Notes

Scheduled fuel ration card partial system outage

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service will have a scheduled complete fuel ration card system outage that will affect the Esso ration card system beginning June 28 at 10 p.m. through June 29 at 8:30 a.m.

Between these hours, AAFES will not be able to issue new fuel ration cards.

The outage is necessary so the fuel ration card system will remain compliant with credit card industry standards.

Officials give end-of-fiscal-year tuition assistance guidance

Soldiers registering for end-of-year college classes through the GoArmyEd Web site must do so before the Army's fiscal year closeout on Sept. 29.

This does not impact registration for courses starting Oct. 1, 2009 or later (FY10 enrollments), according to Installation Management Command-Europe Army Continuing Education Services officials.

"This is something that happens at the end of each fiscal year that impacts people registering for end-of-fiscal-year classes," said Ruth Foster, IMCOM-Europe ACES education services specialist. "The important message for Soldiers is that if they plan to take a class starting Sept. 30 or sooner, they must register prior to Sept. 29."

New veterinary treatment facility policies affect civilians

Beginning July 1, all veterinary treatment facilities will treat Department of Defense civilian employees and Department of Defense Dependent Schools civilian employees' pets on a space available, limited access basis.

Veterinary treatment facilities provide treatment for those who are enrolled in the Defense Enrollment/Eligibility Reporting System to include active duty, retirees and activated reservists.

DoD and DoDDS civilians will be allowed to use the veterinary treatment facility for preventative care only, to include vaccinations, health certificates, and parasite control measures, with a veterinary technician on a space-available basis.

This will not include a doctor's visit. If a doctor's appointment is required or requested, the veterinary treatment facility will provide a list of civilian veterinary clinics off-post.

Current clients who are receiving care from a veterinarian on-post with a prescription for a chronic condition (such as pain medications), will be required to continue care with an off-post veterinarian.

Your common access card must state "medical" on the back if you are approved to use the VTF. Retirees will be required to show their retiree ID that should state medical.

For more information, call the Stuttgart VTF at 431-2681/civ. 07031-15-2681, or stop by Building 2915 on Panzer Kaserne.

Paratroopers

Continued from page 1

bers spoke with the veterans from D-Day, gave away military souvenirs to children and took photos with the thousands of World War II re-enactors who 'stormed' the small French town.

"The entire event was a phenomenal experience where I could take in the history, and pay tribute to those who paid the ultimate price for our freedoms," said Air Force Master Sgt. John Cauffman, SOCEUR operations executive officer. "Meeting a veteran with four combat jumps and a Ranger who fought at Pointe du Hoc were the highlights of the trip."

The story of D-Day has been chronicled in the mini-series "Band of Brothers," which highlighted the experiences of E Company ("Easy Company" of the 2nd Battalion, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division).

As an avid fan of the documentary and of the 101st Airborne Division, Army Staff Sgt. Odwin Matthews felt the experience of meeting the World War II veterans gave him a surge of pride as a Soldier like never before.

"The D-Day invasion has to be one of the most significant events to have occurred in our military history, and to walk the grounds of some of the most fierce battles and meet some of the veterans from that time was a very proud and humbling experience for me personally and as an American Soldier," said Matthews, SOCEUR logistics support noncommissioned officer in charge. "Our nation and the world is in a better place because of the display of extraordinary heroism and sacrifices by the United States and our Allies on June 6, 1944."

For 65 years, there have been stories told throughout towns in Normandy, France, of the brave American men who fought for freedom. Their appreciation of the paratroopers who liberated them has been passed on from generation to generation, and their affection for those paratroopers was represented in all the commemoration events.

"All Americans should visit Normandy at least once in their lives to take in the experience and show gratitude for the sacrifices [veterans] made for their freedoms," Cauffman said.



Sgt. 1st Class Richard Schultz, (left) assigned to U.S. Special Operations Command Europe in Stuttgart, and Spc. Nyaenya Enock, assigned to 173rd Brigade Support Battalion in Bamberg, proudly display the American flag after completing their airborne drop June 7.

Military health officials upgrade H1N1 outbreak to stage six

Europe Regional Medical Command Public Affairs Office

The World Health Organization's decision to declare the H1N1 influenza outbreak at pandemic levels on June 11 has no immediate impact on health care operations in the Europe Regional Medical Command, according to health experts.

"We continue to track the spread of the disease, and we have sufficient reserves of medications for treating the seriously ill," said Col. Evelyn Barraza, ERMIC preventive medicine consultant and chief of preventive medicine at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

There have been six confirmed cases involving U.S. service members in Europe, she said. Those patients

have received treatment and are responding well.

She added that the command continues to follow Centers for Disease Control guidelines.

The CDC notes that if you are sick, you may be ill for a week or longer. You should stay home and avoid contact with other people, except to seek medical care. If you leave the house to seek medical care, wear a mask or cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue.

In general, avoid contact with other people as much as possible to keep from spreading your illness.

At the current time, CDC believes that this virus has the same properties in terms of spread as seasonal flu viruses. With seasonal flu, studies have shown that people may be contagious from one day before they

develop symptoms to up to seven days after they get sick. Children, especially younger children, might potentially be contagious for longer periods.

The CDC guidelines also say that most people will recover without needing medical care.

If you have severe illness, or you are at high risk for flu complications, contact your health care provider or seek medical care. Your health care provider will determine whether flu testing or treatment is needed. Be aware that if the flu becomes widespread, there will be little need to continue testing people, so your health care provider may decide not to test for the flu virus.

Antiviral drugs can be given to treat those who become severely ill.

Capital City Visitation tour explores Stuttgart, Baden-Württemberg

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Several times a year, approximately 35 to 45 American personnel stationed in the communities of Mannheim, Heidelberg and Stuttgart are invited to spend a day in Stuttgart as special guests of the Baden-Württemberg State Parliament, the state government and the city of Stuttgart.

Stuttgart community members are invited to participate in the next city visit set for July 13.

The Capital City Visitation Program is part of an initiative to increase German-American contact and offers service members, civilians and family members a unique opportunity to learn more about the state of Baden-Württemberg and its history.

The program typically begins at the Baden-Württemberg State Parliament with a presentation on the political structure and current political situation, as well as a comparison to the U.S. political system. The presentation includes a film about the state of

Baden-Württemberg.

Following the presentations, a luncheon will be hosted for all participants in either the restaurant of the State Parliament or in the "Ratskeller" as special guests of the city of Stuttgart.

A tour guide will then join the group to provide a guided walking tour to some of Stuttgart's major sights — the State Theater, the New Palace, the Old Palace and the Market Hall of Stuttgart.

The program concludes with a reception at the city hall with the Lord Mayor or the Lord Mayor's personal envoy. The presentation at the city hall also includes a film showing some of the highlights of the city of Stuttgart and the state of Baden-Württemberg.

The tour also provides an understanding of the history shared by the U.S. Forces and the state of Baden-Württemberg, with special emphasis on the crucial role the United States played in reconstructing war-torn Germany and providing it with its present day democratic constitution.

There are no costs or fees for this program.

Transportation to and from downtown Stuttgart will be provided via bus by U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart.

The bus will depart from the shuttle bus drop off point located in front of the AAFES shopping mall on Panzer Kaserne. Participants should meet there at 8:45 a.m. The bus will depart at 9 a.m. and return at approximately 4 p.m.

Due to force protection considerations, the uniform for the day is appropriate civilian attire that presents a respectable, positive image for the U.S. military. For men, a shirt with a collar is required. For woman, no tank tops or sleeveless shirts. Wear comfortable walking shoes.

Registration deadline is July 2.

To register, or for more information, call the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Central Processing Facility at 431-2599/civ. 07031-15-2599.

Negotiating relocation maze before, after PCS move

By Susan Huseman

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Relocating to a new duty station is a little like being a mouse in a maze: You're not sure which way to go; you run into dead ends, and there's a lot of backtracking.

But when Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Department of Defense civilians, teachers and contractors relocate to an Army community such as U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart, the situation is exacerbated.

People about to relocate can educate themselves on their new community as soon as they get orders, according to Mike Hamm, a financial readiness specialist at USAG Stuttgart's Army Community Service.

"As soon as they know they are coming to Stuttgart, they can request a sponsor and start the planning process for a successful move," he said.

Online support is also available. Military Home Front, at www.militaryhomefront.com, is the Department of Defense Web site for official military community and family policy program information and guidance. "Military Home Front is a great resource for getting all the information on your future assignment," said Hamm.

The "Plan My Move" link on the homepage includes useful information on benefits and entitlements, budgeting for a move and a section called Moving 101, for those relocating for the first time. The Web site allows people to even create a personal moving calendar with checklists, phone and to-do lists.

An installation overview includes current weather, maps, photos and community information. There are even links to cultural, recreation and travel points of interest within 50 miles of the selected installation.

But doing online research is only half the challenge of a permanent change of station move. What



File photo

Requesting a sponsor and planning ahead can help lead to a successful move.

about when you get here?

The USAG Stuttgart Inprocessing Training Center provides two weeks of training that covers installation services and resources available to people arriving to Stuttgart. "In the first five days, not only do we provide briefings that give an overview of at least 36 installation services, such as housing, finance, driver's license testing, customs, medical, dental and passport services, we also build in time for the individuals to in-process at IACS, get an ID card and inprocess at other agencies," said Teresa Quinn, the USAG Stuttgart Military Personnel Division chief.

The training also includes a week of German Head Start, which exposes students to German language and culture, and the local area.

Permanent party members are required to attend the training, and the ITC tries to accommodate family members. "Family members are encouraged to attend, and, if they are registered in CYS-S, we can provide

up to 16 hours of free child care to offset costs to attend portions or all of ITC and German Head Start," Quinn said.

Army Community Service offers its own "Stuttgart Newcomers Orientation" class, also known as SNO. The free, two-day class covers basic German language and customs, and a tour of Stuttgart. Teens also have an orientation program designed specifically for them, courtesy of the garrison's Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Child, Youth and School Services.

Because most permanent change of station moves occur over the summer, the garrison's FMWR finds that August is a good month to hold a community-wide information fair. This year, the Community, Activities, Registration and Education Fair, or CARE Fair, will be held Aug. 22 in the Patch Fitness Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. More than 80 agencies and organizations will be on hand, offering newcomers the chance to enroll as a community volunteer, get involved in their school's Parent Teacher Association, or sign up for Girl or Boy Scouts.

Of course, if you've got an immediate question, contact ACS. "We help all service members," said Hamm. "We have a lending closet for basic kitchen needs. We offer a translation services for unofficial documents. We can provide information on all aspects of life in Stuttgart, to include vet services, hospitals and medical care.

"We're here to answer any of the questions someone may have about the military community or the local Stuttgart area," said Hamm. "We're a one-stop information source for all information needs."

For more information on relocation services, call Army Community Service at 431-3436/07031-15-3436 or visit www.militaryhomefront.com.

Sponsorship key to smooth relocation, regardless of service

By Susan Huseman

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Air Force Capt. Daniel Newcomer knows all too well how a Permanent Change of Station move can suddenly turn sour.

When he arrived in Stuttgart last year as part of U.S. Africa Command's stand-up team, Newcomer's sponsor showed him where he would work, and then handed him a duty bus schedule as he dropped Newcomer off at the hotel.

So much for a warm welcome to Stuttgart.

Newcomer used his experience as a model of what not to do when he was assigned as a sponsor to Navy Lt. Pete Wengel. "It helped me to be a good sponsor. It showed me what I wouldn't want to go through again," said Newcomer.

Wengel, who arrived May 21 (his family arrived June 20), is on his first overseas permanent assignment. "Moving overseas is no small task," he said. "Capt. Newcomer did a fantastic job."

Wengel said Newcomer took care of him professionally, helping to coordinate with Wengel's new workplace, and personally. "He would call me almost

every day to see if I needed something," he said. "He invited me to his home, let me use his computer and phone. He made sure I got one or two home-cooked meals every week. I couldn't have asked for anything else."

Wengel is familiar with what it takes to be a sponsor, having sponsored his replacement at his last duty station. "It's a tough job because you're doing it on your own time ... you've still got your normal job to do."

But it is worthwhile, he added. "Strong sponsorship ... makes people happy, and happy people reenlist," said Wengel.

It's true. Sponsorship has been directly linked to retention, according to Dan Adams, the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Army Community Service Relocation Readiness Program manager.

And not just for one particular branch of service. For example, a 2002 Marine Corps quality of life survey found those families who knew about and used the sponsorship program were more satisfied than those who did not.

"The smoother it is when they PCS, the more apt they are to reenlist," said Adams.

Each unit or command runs its own sponsorship program as the commander sees fit.

The ACS Relocation Readiness program provides support to the units with materials, guidance and training.

"We show them how to build a sponsorship packet, how to assess the needs of an incoming family or a single service member," Adams said.

When sending welcome information and literature, a sponsor needs to consider if there are children and their ages, if the spouse is pregnant, or if there are pets. If the incoming person is single, the sponsor needs to know if he or she is in the process of getting married. There are lodging, housing, school and child care issues to consider.

The details help the sponsor provide the best experience

possible. "We want to connect the service member, their spouse and family with the right services," Adams said.

Of course, sponsorship is just not for military members. "Everyone, as long as they are permanent party, is entitled to sponsorship," said Adams.

The ACS Relocation Readiness Program offers sponsorship training to units by request. Training is also offered on the first and last Monday of each month from 2-3 p.m. at ACS, Building 2915, on Panzer Kaserne. For more information, call Army Community Service at 431-3436/07031-15-3436.



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Summer travel: Be prepared for emergencies

By Ron Kirkemo

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart
Emergency Management Office

The kids are out of school and ready for a road trip. But before heading out on your European vacation, make sure you are prepared.

Staus, or traffic jams, are an everyday occurrence in Europe. Did you pack water and food, just in case? What happens when your car has a flat or overheats on the Romantische Strasse (Romantic Road) somewhere between Reute and Rothenburg ... can you fix it?

Calling Allgemeiner Deutscher Automobil Club (the German automobile club) might be your solution, but what if your phone is dead, or has no reception?

When it comes to commuting or traveling any lengthy distance, a roadside emergency kit can mean the difference between getting back on the road or being stuck. It is the one item that every vehicle should have; yet most of us never carry any of the basic items to help get us back on the



picasaweb.google.com

Don't let a breakdown spoil your summer trip. Keep a roadside emergency kit inside your vehicle, and use common sense in emergency situations.

road quickly and safely.

Some of the basic items, besides the required warning triangle, first aid kit, and reflectorized vest, include:

- 12-foot jumper cables
- Cell phone charger for a car
- Two quarts of oil
- Gallon of antifreeze

- Blanket
- Extra fuses
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Flathead and Phillips screwdrivers
- Pliers, vise grips and an adjustable wrench
- Tire inflator (such as a Fix-A-

Flat)

- Bottle of window cleaner
- Rags
- Roll of paper towels
- Roll of duct tape
- Small roll of wire
- Utility knife
- Pen and paper
- Energy bars
- Bottled water
- Toilet paper
- Heavy-duty nylon bag to carry it all in.

Before you actually use your kit in an emergency situation, take time to familiarize yourself with these items and how to properly use them. Remember that the most important item is your own good judgment — stopping to change a tire in the fast lane is only an accident waiting to happen.

There isn't one tool for all roadside emergency needs, but with a smidgen of trunk space, an emergency roadside kit can often save the day.

For more information, visit the Emergency Management homepage at www.stuttgart.army.mil.

Traveling in Europe with pets takes planning

By PFC Sara Carter

Stuttgart Veterinary Treatment Facility

Germany is in the heart of Europe, making it easy to travel to many different countries. However, when traveling with a pet, advance planning is required.

For travel within the European Union, a pet passport is required. Pet passports are available from German veterinarians. Although the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Veterinary Treatment Facility is not authorized to issue pet passports, they can update vaccine dates and parasite treatments if the services were rendered by the treatment facility staff.

When crossing country borders, some countries, such as the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Malta, require that incoming pets have a microchip. Immigration officers use the microchip to compare the pet they are scanning to the veterinary documents presented to them.

Pet owners need to make sure their pet's rabies vaccine is current, because some countries in the EU may not acknowledge a three-year rabies vaccine.

They also need to be aware of the rabies classification for the country to be visited. Traveling to a rabies-free country will require a satisfactory result on a Fluorescent Antibody Viral Neutralization test, or a rabies titer test. This blood test makes sure the animal has enough antibodies in the blood to prevent infection of the rabies virus. Other countries may require a FAVN test, as well as a quarantine period.

If traveling by train or plane, dog owners may consider vaccinating their pet for kennel cough, since there's a chance their animal may be in close proximity to other animals. If flying, the airlines will require owners to present a 10-day health certificate from a veterinarian, stating that the pet is free of zoonotic (animal to human spread) diseases.

Traveling by train may be an option, depending

upon the destination. Most trains in France, Germany and Italy allow pets. Small dogs may travel for free or a minimal cost, and large dogs can usually travel for half the rate of a second class ticket, regardless if the owner is riding in second class or not. This fee can be paid directly to the conductor. More often than not, dogs will be required to be leashed and muzzled, if not crated.

When traveling by car, keep in mind the chances of getting caught in a Stau, or traffic jam, on the highways, especially around the end of the workday. Give your animals plenty of opportunities to drink water to prevent dehydration, and take frequent breaks so animals can stretch their legs and do his or her business outside. Be sure to pack extra food and medications.

For country-specific travel requirements, visit www.pettravel.com. For more information, call the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Veterinary Treatment Facility at 431-2681/civ. 07031-15-2681.

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Regional contracting office to close July 21

The Regional Contracting Office Stuttgart will be closed on July 21 for training. The office will re-open July 22 to support customers.

For more information, call 421-2945/civ. 0711-729-2945.

Patch Fitness Center offers belly dancing class

Patch Fitness Center is now offering a belly dance workout class on Wednesday from 6:30-7:30 p.m. The cost is \$4.

For more information, call 430-7136/civ. 0711-680-7136.

CYS Services fall sports

July 31 is the deadline to register your child for the Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation Child, Youth and School Services' fall soccer and flag football season.

Register at Central Enrollment Registration, Building 2347, on Patch Barracks, or for more information, call 430-7480/civ. 0711-680-7480.

Preschool, Strong Beginnings registration begins

Part-day preschool and Strong Beginnings registration will be held at Child, Youth and School Services' Central Enrollment Registration on July 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Strong Beginnings is available for children who will be 4 years old by Sept. 1. Part-day preschool is available for children 3 years old and fully potty-trained by Sept. 1. All children must be enrolled with CYS Services to register.

For more information, call 430-7840/civ. 0711-680-7480.

CYS-S hosts apprenticeship program sessions

The CYS Services Hired Apprenticeship Program will offer parent information sessions on July 15 and 29, and Aug. 12 and 26 from 6:15-7:15 p.m. at the Patch Hub, Building 2337.

To register, call 430-7147/civ. 0711-680-7147.

Red Cross classes

The American Red Cross will offer an orientation for new volunteers July 14 from 10 a.m. to noon. A CPR/first aid/automated external defibrillator class will be held July 18-19, and a standard first aid class will be offered July 25. Register at the American Red Cross office, Building 2915, Panzer Kaserne.

Visit the community flea market

Family Morale Welfare and Recreation will host a community flea market June 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in front of the AAFES shopping mall on Panzer Kaserne. To sell your treasures, sign up at any USAG Stuttgart Fitness Center.



Larry Reilly

Community members browse during the last flea market May 30.

For more information, call 431-2812/civ. 07031-15-2812.

Garrison, 1/10th host Run to Remember July 11

1/10th Special Forces and U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart will team up to host the 2009 Stuttgart Run to Remember, a half marathon and five kilometer run honoring fallen friends and family involved in the war on terrorism.

The race will be held July 11 on Panzer Kaserne, with the half marathon starting at 9 a.m. and the 5K at 10:30 a.m. The registration fee is \$12 for individuals and \$30 for families. Register at the Patch or Panzer Fitness Centers. The first 300 participants are guaranteed race T-shirts.

For more information, call 430-7136/civ. 0711-680-7136.

New hours at Thrift Shop

The Stuttgart Community Spouses' Club Thrift Shop, located in Building 2332 on Patch Barracks, has new hours of operation. The thrift shop is now open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday from 3-7 p.m., and the first and third Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information, call 430-5510 or civ. 0711-680-5510.

Red Cross open house

The American Red Cross will host an Open House June 29 from noon to 4 p.m. with information on Red Cross programs and services. A free auto-

mated emergency defibrillator class will be offered at 10 and 11 a.m., and at 1 and 2 p.m. The Red Cross is located in Building 2915 on Panzer Kaserne.

For more information, call 431-2812/civ. 07031-15-2812.

EEO counselors needed

The Equal Employment Opportunity office is seeking volunteer EEO counselors. The deadline for applications is July 10.

For application and more information, call 430-5312/0711-680-5312.

Tax Center to close

The Stuttgart Tax Center's last day of operations will be June 30.

For more information, call 421-4588/civ. 0711-729-4588.

Learn to speak German

The Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation Child School and Youth Services' SKIES program will offer a German language class for people 15 years old to adults from July 2 to Aug. 13.

Classes will be held Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30-11 a.m. in Building 151 on Robinson Barracks, and from 6:30-8 p.m. in Building 2312 on Patch Barracks. The cost is \$200, with an additional fee for textbooks.

For more information or to register, call 430-7458/civ. 0711-680-7458.

Register for VBS

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Religious Support Office hosts

Vacation Bible School for children in preschool to those entering sixth grade at Patch Elementary School July 27-31 from 9 a.m. to noon and at Robinson Barracks Elementary/Middle School Aug. 3-7 from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. Registration ends June 30.

For more information, call 431-3079/civ. 07031-15-3079.

EEO training offered

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Equal Employment Opportunity office will offer consolidated EEO trainings July 7 and 9. For more information, call 430-5256/civ. 0711-680-5256.

Career workshop set

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Equal Employment Opportunity office will hold a women's career development workshop, titled "Communication and Assertiveness," on July 9 from 9-11 a.m. at Army Community Service, Building 2915, Panzer Kaserne. Registration is required.

For more information, call 430-5256/civ. 0711-680-5256.

Orientation for teens

Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation Child, Youth and School Services will host orientation sessions for teens in sixth grade and up July 16-18 and Aug. 13-15.

Participants will discover the Stuttgart city center, tour Stuttgart's military community, navigate German public transportation and learn German customs.

For more information, stop by Building 2337 on Patch Barracks, or call 430-7480/civ. 0711-680-7480.

Bodybuilding contest

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Family Morale Welfare and Recreation fitness centers will host a bodybuilding and figure competition Aug. 22. This is an International Natural Bodybuilding and Fitness Federation-sanctioned event and a pro qualifier. Register at the Patch Fitness Center.

For more information, call 430-7136 or civ. 0711-680-7136.

Short films wanted

Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Patch Multi-Craft Center is looking for short films of all types for their first Stuttgart Film Festival. Entries will be shown Aug. 7 at 7 p.m. in the Kelley Theatre.

For guidelines and more information stop by Patch Multi-Crafts Center or call 430-5270/civ. 0711-680-5270.

4 p.m. to midnight

USAG Stuttgart

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Fun Run (10 a.m.) • Face Painting • Watermelon Seed Spitting • Belly Bumpers • Car Bashing • Tug of War • Sack Race • Kiddy Train • Giant Slide • Beer Case Stacking • Carousel • Puppet Show (at library) • Bouncing Castle • Dunking Booth • Pottery Painting/Crafts • Rock Band Interactive Contest

Get your...

You don't have to be James Bond to ride a jet ski, travel around the world and schmooze with celebrities.

In fact, you don't even have to leave Germany.

From an afternoon spent with Shrek to a Lego-lover's paradise, the European take on amusement parks will leave visitors wondering how they ever waited for summer.



The jet ski ride at the Santa Monica Pier in Movie Park Germany takes visitors for a wild spin.

Movie Park Germany

Explore Bikini Bottom, take a wild water ride with Dora the Explorer and meet Sponge Bob for an afternoon of fishing at Movie World Germany. This park, in Bottrop-Kirchhellen, features characters from Nickland, Ice Age and Shrek, as well as other movies and television shows.

Inside the park, Santa Monica Pier visitors can enjoy an afternoon of water fun with an atmosphere similar to the actual pier in California. At the Nickland section of the park, Blue's Clues will take the little guests for a ride, and Dora the Explorer invites visitors to take a wild ride down a water slide.

One of the main feature of the park, next to Nickland, is the 4D Theater that features the adventures of Shrek and Fiona, as well as Donkey. In the Wild West section of the park, saloons and barber shops line up in a replica of a Hollywood movie set.

The park will celebrate Sponge Bob's birthday on July 18 this year.

The park is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in June and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. in July and August. Entrance prices run between €27 for children ages 4-11 and €31 for adults.

Dogs are not allowed in the park; however, there is a dog hotel located directly next to the parking lot with service that includes food for the day. The service is free of charge for park patrons. For more information on the park and the dog hotel, visit www.movieparkgermany.de.



The character parade at Europa-Park winds its way through the Greek section of the park daily during lunch time.



Family-friendly rides and Germany's largest Lego store can be found at Legoland Germany in Günzburg.

Legoland Germany

More than 50 million individual Lego blocks were used to build Legoland Germany. Rides and attractions, as well as one of the largest Lego stores in Germany, await the visitors.

This year's newest attraction is the Atlantis by Sea Life aquarium and underwater world, where one million Lego blocks were used to create a habitat for more than 1,000 underwater creatures, including sharks, stingrays and more.

The park is open daily from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. in June and July, and from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. in August.

Entrance prices start at €28 for children ages 3-11 and €34 for adults.

For more information on extended opening times and prices, visit www.legoland.de.

Europa-Park

The Europa-Park in Rust, about 175 kilometers southwest of Stuttgart, is a well-known park with many international visitors. This park features rides ranging from fast and thrilling to slow and leisurely. The park also has water rides, laser and ice shows, and a 4D cinema.

With an area of more than 210,000 acres, Europa-Park is divided into 15 different areas, mostly named after European countries, each with appropriate architecture, vegetation, food, shopping and attractions. For example, the English section contains a London bus ride, and the Switzerland section offers a bobsled ride.

The park is home to 10 roller coasters, including its latest attraction, the Blue Fire Megacoaster. Other coasters include the MIR and the Silver Star, as well as some slower-paced rides like the Pegasus water ride and log flume.

The park features a wide assortment of stage and theater shows as well, including the ice show "Dream Motion," as well as a musical and 4D underwater adventure. The character parade representing the different countries runs through the main street of Greece.

There are also kid-friendly carousels, bumper cars and rides. A sandy beach playground and the Nivea water world give younger visitors time to explore and play at their own pace, with a picnic area for parents and grandparents to rest.

Entrance prices range from €30 for children ages 4 through 12 to €34 for adults. The parking fee is €5 per vehicle. Dogs on leashes are allowed in the park. For a variety of visitor packages, which include park entrance and a stay in one of the themed four-star hotels on site, visit www.europapark.de.



Birgit Thompson

The entrance to Tripsdrill displays the park's overall theme: wine.

Tripsdrill

Tripsdrill is the oldest amusement park in Baden-Württemberg.

The park is located in Cleebronn, just 30 kilometers from Ludwigsburg, and offers something for the whole family.

Through its 80 years, the park has developed into a major tourist destination with 100 different attractions. Tripsdrill contains water slides, chain carousels, dancing tea cups and more.

A "Vinarium," or wine cellar, and wine museum, where visitors can taste local wines, complements the main theme of the park: wine production. After tasting the wines, visitors can also take a spin in the "Lustige Weinberg," a vineyard keg ride.

The main attractions, however, are the Mammoth roller coaster, the largest wooden roller coaster in Germany, the castle wild water bathtub slide and a wild water rafting tour.

Smaller roller coasters and attractions, as well as a Swabian restaurant and several snack bars located throughout the park, give visitors a variety of activities to choose from. A 47 acre wild life park is located next door to the amusement park.

Prices for the park start at €18 for children under 11 years of age and €22 for adults. The park is open daily from April 30 to Nov. 1 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Dogs can be taken in the park for a cleaning fee of €1. Parking is free. For more information on attractions and directions to the park, visit www.tripsdrill.de.

Other popular theme parks in Germany

- Phantasia Land — Brühl /Köln
www.phantasialand.de
- Holiday Park — Hassloch
www.holidaypark.de
- Ravensburger Spieleland
www.ravensburger.de/spieleland
- Heide Park — Soltau
www.heide_park.de
- Belantis — Leipzig
www.belantis.de

For a complete list of theme parks in Germany, visit www.parkscout.de.

By Birgit Thompson
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

...thrill on!

Largest German pool center in Panzer's backyard

Story & photo by **Brittany Carlson**
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Just the idea of cool water on a hot day is enough to make thousands of people migrate toward the beaches every summer.

Fortunately, Stuttgart residents don't have to go that far. A swimming pool center is located within 15 minutes of Panzer Kaserne: the Badezentrum Sindelfingen.

The center has five outdoor and three indoor pools (two Olympic-sized), making it the largest pool area in Germany. The pools receive 500,000 visitors a year, said Peter Riedel, Badezentrum manager, through a translator.

"The fields of grass and all the different types of pools ... it's so big and spacious [that] you don't feel overcrowded."

Jennifer Eaton
Army spouse

It is most famous for its water climbing tower — the first in the world. Climbers follow color-coded grips on the tower up to 15 feet, where they can jump off into the pool. The Badezentrum



Children play inside a whirlpool at the Badezentrum Sindelfingen. The pool center has the largest amount of square footage in Germany.

also offers massages, pedicures, a sauna, five whirlpools and a barbecue area.

"I love it," said Jennifer Eaton, an Army spouse who visits the pool weekly. "The fields of grass and all the

different types of pools ... even when there are a lot of people here, it's so big and spacious [that] you don't feel overcrowded."

Eaton plans to spend much of her

summer poolside, and soaking up the sun. "I'm trying to go at least once every other day to lie out, and take a dip whenever I get hot," she said.

In the outdoor area, children can play in a water playground, complete with sand and toys. When they become dirty, they can clean off in the pool.

"That is forbidden [at home], but you can do it here," Riedel said. Even U.S. Marines stationed in Stuttgart take advantage of the special pool rules here, he added. "Here, they get to swim in their uniforms and their shoes in the outdoor pool."

An extra-wide metal slide is for older swimmers, as well as the four diving boards, up to 10 meters above the water.

There are also two restaurants, including a German cafe and an American-style snack shop.

Clothing is not required in one outdoor area, which is clearly marked and separated from the rest of the pools.

The Badezentrum Sindelfingen is located at Hohenzollernstr. 23, 71067 Sindelfingen (near Burger King). Prices are €3.80 for one day and €34.20 for 10 visits. A summer season pass is €71.50 from May to September. The center will host its annual Fun and Action Pool Party July 12 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The party includes bumper cars, contests, an obstacle course and a car carrier boat race.

For more information, visit the Web site, www.badezentrum.de.

German-American Kontakt Club is back on the map

By **Birgit Thompson**
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

German-American Kontakt Clubs are no longer a widespread sight around Germany. At one time, most installations or regional commands sported a German-American Friendship Program, but the drawdown of forces in the 90s caused most Kontakt Clubs to disappear, and now only a handful remain.

During the 90s, Stuttgart had an active Kontakt Club, a clubhouse on Kelley Barracks and a membership of roughly 70 Germans and Americans. Although attendance later declined, the club is back alive today, with the help of some dedicated volunteers.

Jennifer Luley and Irena Brauneisen have donated many hours of their time to help the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Public Affairs Office to reestablish the Kontakt Club.

"Kontakt is dear to my heart," said Luley, a USAG Stuttgart employee, and former member of the Giessen Kontakt Club. "When we were stationed in Giessen, my husband deployed while I was pregnant with my daughter.

"The club carried me through some pretty rough times back then," she added. "The members of the club were there for me, and now I would like to bring this kind of support to Stuttgart as well."

Kontakt Clubs were established in 1969 as a U.S. Army-Europe and Germany Ministry for youth and sports sponsored outreach program. These clubs were supposed to take away the unknown and initiate friendships between Germans and Americans through cultural exchanges.

Even though the closure of many installations in Germany no longer necessitates large numbers of these kinds of clubs, some remain active, even without a local military presence.

The Darmstadt installations, for example, closed last year, but the Kontakt Club remains strong, meeting at a local restaurant monthly, going on outings and planning future events. Fulda, formerly a large military community that shut down in the early 90s, continues to have one of the strongest clubs in Germany.

Luley and Brauneisen believe it's time to put the Stuttgart Kontakt club back on the map, and that's exactly what they are doing. Since Stuttgart is an enduring and growing military community, the need for a Kontakt Club in Stuttgart is greater than ever, Luley said.

The club features outings to museums, chocolate factory stores, XXL shopping in Metzingen, the outlet Mecca of Baden Württemberg, asparagus dinners, a German-American Stammtisch and more.

The club recently acquired a new meeting place

"The club carried me through some pretty rough times ... and now I would like to bring this kind of support to Stuttgart as well."

Jennifer Luley
Stuttgart Kontakt Club member

on Panzer Kaserne, so a council can now officially be established. Luley said this community would benefit greatly from the club and the advantages it brings.

The first open house at the new Panzer location (Building 3180, the old fire station) is scheduled for July 12 at 2 p.m. All interested community members, as well as their families and friends, are invited to attend or apply for an official council position.

For more information, visit www.kontakt-club-stuttgart.de.

Festivals, markets welcome summer in Germany

Markets and more

• June 25-30 — Bad Wimpfen — Tal market

This is the largest folk market in the region. A variety market as well as entertainment and food and fair grounds complete the festival in Bad Wimpfen im Tal.

• June 27-28 — Böbingen an der Rems — Arts and crafts market

This market features handmade crafts at the Rathaus.

• June 27 — Calw — Calw rocks

This open-air concert features the bands Eric Burdon and the Animals, Barkley James Harvest and Ten Years After at the Marktplatz in the historical downtown area.

• June 25-28 — Phillipsburg — Historical camp site

This site features reenactments of North American military battles and is located at the Gewann Pfählmorgen.

• June 27-28 — Gerabronn — Soap box rally

This rally takes place in the center of town.

• June 27-28 — Haigerloch — Rose Days

This event, featuring cooking and perfume-making with roses, takes place at the Rosengarten.

• June 27 — Hardheim — Summer fire

The Steinbruch am Wurmberg is the location for this event.

• June 27-29 — Mannheim — See-bühnenzauber

Theater, musicals, comedy and more take place in the Luisenpark.

• June 27 — Esslingen am Neckar — Night of the Open Churches

This event takes place in the downtown area churches of Esslingen.

Festivals

• June 25-29 — Laupheim — Culture and children's festival

This is a colorful festival with fair grounds, camp sites and more at the Festplatz.

• June 26-29 — Althausen — Children's festival

This festival is located at the Festgelände Bläurieder Strasse.

• June 26-29 — Backnang — Street festival

This festival is the largest and oldest in Baden Württemberg and features an extensive program for visitors of all ages. The festival is located throughout the

downtown area. For more information, visit www.backnanger-strassenfest.de.

• June 26-28 — Bad Mergentheim — City festival

This festival takes place at the Marktplatz and the entire downtown area.

• June 26-28 — Bad Urach — Festival in the park

This festival marks the opening of "Jazz in the Park" and is located at the Biergarten Hotel Graf Eberhard.

• June 26-29 — Baltmannsweiler — Summer festival

This festival is held at the Festplatz.

• June 26-28 — Burladingen — Saw festival

The Walz-Mühle hosts this festival in the city section of Stetten.

• June 26-28 — Crailsheim — Hostess festival

This festival is located at the Marktplatz at the Langen Strasse.

• June 26-28 — Denkendorf — Wine festival

This festival takes place at the historical wine cellar and the Zehntscheuer.

• June 26-28 — Gammertingen — City festival

This large festival takes place in the downtown area.

• June 26-28 — Giengen an der Brenz — Steiff Teddy bear festival

The festival is located at the Steiff factory area and the museum.

• June 26-27 — Heidenheim an der Brenz — International festival

The festival features information and food of different cultures in the downtown area.

• June 26-27 — Köngen — Wine festival

The local vintners host this festival in the downtown area.

• June 26-29 — Mengen — Summer festival

A historical crafts market, a beer tent and a parade are included in this festival at the Festplatz in Rosna.

• June 26-28 — Neuenstein — Walk-Lake festival

An open-air concert and a game obstacle course make this festival a family-friendly destination.

• June 26-28 — Oberkochen — City festival

This festival takes place downtown.

• June 26-28 — Renningen — Summer festival

The festival is located at the Malmsheim airfield. Harleys from around the world are expected to join the festivities.

• June 26-28 — Weil im Schönbuch — Farm and museum festival

The Aussiedlerhof Lutz, Lauwiesenstrasse 73 is the location for this festival.



www.stauferspektakel.de

• June 26-29 — Waiblingen — Staufer Spektakel

This medieval festival takes place in the old city section of Waiblingen. It features camp life, live jousting, food and more.

• June 27 — Bad Dürkheim — Lake night festival

This festival is located at the Salinensee and features a fireworks display.

• June 27-28 — Dietingen — Village festival

This festival is held at the Kirchplatz.

• June 27-28 — Dornstetten — Barefoot park festival

This festival takes place in the barefoot park in Hellwangen.

• June 27-28 — Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen — Street festival

This festival is located in the Hauptstrasse of Eggenstein.

• June 27-28 — Filderstadt — Traditional bear festival

This cozy festival features Swabian and

international cuisine and an impressive program for visitors of all ages. The fest will be held at the pedestrian area in downtown Filderstadt.

• June 27-28 — Gemmringen — Village festival

This festival takes place in the center of town.

• June 27-28 — Gerlingen — Music festival

The city orchestra plays musical favorites at the Rathausplatz.

• June 27-28 — Gerstetten — Market square festival

This festival is located at the Rummelplatz in the downtown area.

• June 27-28 — Kirchardt — Village festival

The festival features live music and a colorful program at the Gutshof in the city section of Bockschaft.

• June 27-28 — Kirchheim unter Teck — City festival

This traditional festival is located at the Rollschuhplatz.

• June 27-29 — Kraichtal — Street festival

This festival is located in Unteröwisheim.

• June 27-28 — Langenbrettach — Summer festival

This festival takes place in the Talhalle in the city section of Langenbeutingen.

• June 27-29 — Magstadt — Summer festival

The festival is located at the Riessgarten.

• June 27-28 — Malsch — Village field festival

The Klosterhof in Völkersbach is the location of this traditional festival.



www.photos.com

It's strawberry time!

Little huts or even strawberry-like booths along the roads will be a common sight this month in the Stuttgart and Böblingen areas. Fresh strawberries can be purchased directly from the farmer at those little stands. These healthy and tasty treats can also be picked directly from the fields by the customers, saving a few euros on the price of the fruit. For picking strawberries, bring your own baskets and have them weighed before you fill them; this way, you only pay for the fruit you picked.

Outdoor Recreation amps up summer with climbing, gliding

By Brittany Carlson

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

For many people, soaking up the sun, swimming and riding a bicycle are typical summer activities.

The Outdoor Recreation Center staff's idea of summer fun is a little more intense.

Their typical summer includes rock climbing on castle ruins, soaring through the air at 10,000 feet, braving water rapids in Austria and wakeboarding behind a giant kite.

Stuttgart community members can, too, by signing up for a summer event with the recreation center.

The center has several new programs available, such as paragliding, which is

similar to sky diving, but from a lower height and with a longer flight time.

Steve Van Fleet, paragliding instructor and extreme sports coordinator, described the sport in one word: "Freedom."

"It's as close as you can get to flying like a bird," he said.

The paragliding program began a year ago under Van Fleet. This year, he helps participants earn their German license to fly alone, but next year he will provide "tandem" flights for those who just want to experience the ride. Van Fleet hopes to provide some of these flights from the Zugspitze, the highest mountain peak in Germany.

Van Fleet also leads rock climbing trips to both indoor and outdoor facilities. "[There are] big, beautiful

rocks with castles on top of them," he said. "In some cases, we even climb the castles."

Van Fleet will also lead the Italy Adventure trip in July to Lake Garda for some "kiteboarding": Participants harness themselves to a kite, strap on a wakeboard, and ride around on the lake.

Paragliding and rock climbing are the most popular sports for Outdoor Recreation customers, said Steve Dunlap, assistant director for the Outdoor Recreation centers.

"They love it," he said. "As soon as they come back, they want to know when the next trip is going."

Another new item on the calendar is the shooting club, which started a few months ago, and meets at the Shützenhaus in Sindelfingen, between Patch Barracks and Panzer Kaserne.

Participants can try their skills at a rifle and handgun range, or shoot "trap," which are clay pigeons that "fly" out from underneath the shooter. A German hunting/shooting license is not required, but participants must be age 16 or older to shoot.

The variety of programs, along with the option to rent buses for large groups, has built up the Outdoor Recreation program in the past year, Dunlap said.

"We try to keep everybody happy," he said. "The trips are a lot [more] full now."

Scuba and sky diving can be arranged upon request. For information on dates, times and prices, call the Outdoor Recreation Center at 431-2774/civ. 07031-15-2774.

Summer schedule

June 27: Rafting Express, Austria — \$175 for two floats, departs at 4:30 a.m.

June 27: Paintball Play Day*

July 3-5: Italy Adventure — kiteboarding, biking, hiking, paragliding

July 7: Shooting: Trap (clay pigeons)** — Sindelfingen shooting club; \$20

July 9: Shooting: Rifle and Handgun range*** — Sindelfingen shooting club; \$20

July 11-12: Road Bike Tour — along roadway of Germany and France near Karlsruhe; includes spa visit

July 12: Paragliding/Kiting — Black Forest; \$20 and €60; weather dependent

July 18: Intro. to Rock Climbing — local sites; \$50, departs at 8 a.m.

July 25: Rafting Express, Austria — \$175 for two floats; departs at 4:30 a.m.

July 26: Paragliding/Kiting — Black Forest; \$20 and €60; weather dependent

*Every other Saturday

**Every other Tuesday

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Summer event flyers are available at the Outdoor Recreation Center, Building 2953, Panzer Kaserne.



Photo courtesy of Anna Van Fleet

Steve Van Fleet, Outdoor Recreation paragliding instructor, glides over mountain peaks in the Black Forest region of Germany.

Stuttgart Golf Course gains Audubon certification, practice greens

By Brittany Carlson

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Golfers in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart now have new greens for chipping, putting, pitching and bunker practice at the Stuttgart Golf Club's new practice greens.

"It's a great addition to the course and an opportunity for a golfer to practice his skills," said Chris Konik, the Stuttgart Golf Club superintendent. "You couldn't really practice any mid-range shots [before]."

The four greens, scheduled to begin opening the first week of July, were funded and built by the German Neckartal Club, a German golf club that shares the facility, on used portions of the course, located in Kornwestheim.

"[Now], it's a practice pitching area complete with two greens and a bunker to practice 50 — to 100 — yard shots," Konik said. "We converted that, with the help of Germans, into an environmentally-friendly area."

In fact, the entire club and course is environmentally-friendly, earning it the title of first European military golf course to receive the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary golf course certification last September.

It took more than a year for the club to earn the six certifications in environmental planning, wildlife and habitat management, chemical use reduction and

safety, water conservation, water quality management, and outreach and education.

The Stuttgart Golf Club's course is the second course in Germany to receive the award.

In addition to the greens, the course added 25 new electric golf carts this spring, and a cart storage facility to hold a total of 65 golf carts.

"This helps with our tournament play and our Wednesday Night Scramble," said Gary Groff, Stuttgart Golf Club manager. "We used to have people walking."

The carts also eliminate gasoline use and emissions that are harmful to the environment.

The course is also eco-friendly because 180 acres of it (out of 300) is used as a wildlife habitat for squirrels, hedgehogs, moles and a variety of birds, Konik said.

"We trim a lot of trees, and then we put the brush from the trees below ... for birds, it's more or less a bird sanctuary," Groff added.

In April, the Stuttgart Golf Club hosted a bird watching tour with the Naturschutzbund, a German nature society for the community and club members.

"A lot of the wildlife that's out here wouldn't have the opportunity to flourish like it does [here] anywhere else," Konik said.

For more information, call the Stuttgart Golf Club at civ. 07141-879-151.



Susan Huseman

A golfer putts at the Stuttgart Golf Club, which will open new practice greens next month.



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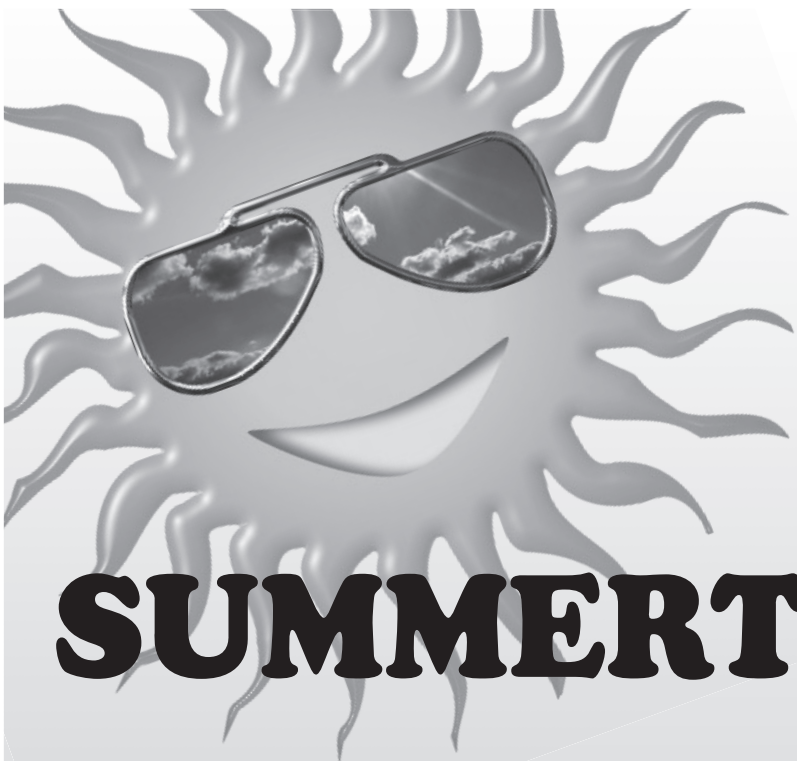
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